

International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, October 12-16, 2020

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

Netherlands - Dutch Government Increases Agricultural Budget – [link](#)

The Dutch government has presented its budget for the next annual budget cycle (which begins on January 1, 2021). In recent years, the Ministry of Agriculture's budget has increased sharply -- from €0.8 billion in 2018 to more than €2 billion for 2021. The government has identified four key areas in which it wants to invest: 1) structural measures to address nitrogen pollution, 2) a national protein strategy, 3) sustainable European agricultural production, and 4) continued development of a sustainable livestock sector and improved animal welfare. Through these policy goals, the Ministry hopes to provide clarity and perspective to farmers in terms of future policies. Parliamentary discussions on the 2021 budget revealed that not all Ministers of Parliament were in agreement with some of the proposed policies, particularly the proposal to address nitrogen emissions.

Taiwan - Dairy and Products Annual – [link](#)

Despite the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and lumpy skin disease, Taiwan's \$1.5 billion dairy sector remains strong. Taiwan continues to improve its milk production with an eye on the coming impact of the New Zealand-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which will give New Zealand quota free duty-free access by 2025. New Zealand's impending duty-free access represents a threat to the cost competitiveness of all U.S. dairy imports. Total fluid milk imports are forecast to increase by seven percent, to 79,000 MT, while imports of U.S. fluid milk were up 21 percent in the first eight months of 2020, in spite of Taiwan's tariff rate quota (TRQ) and special safeguard (SSG) measures.

HPAI Outbreak Impacts Northern Kazakhstan - [link](#)

On September 17, Kazakhstan announced an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Northern Kazakhstan Province. In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Agriculture implemented internal quarantine measures and a widespread vaccination campaign. To date, the outbreak is believed to have caused the death of hundreds of thousands of poultry in at least nine provinces throughout Kazakhstan.

Thailand - Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional - [link](#)

This report contains information about Thailand's food service industry. It provides an overview of market opportunities and key channels of distribution for U.S. food and beverage products destined for the food service market in Thailand.

Malaysia - Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional – [link](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing movement control orders have severely impacted the Malaysian hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) industry, with national hotel occupancy rates reportedly in a range of 12-20 percent as of July 2020. Despite these headwinds, Malaysian demand for foreign consumer-oriented food and beverage products continues to be robust. Demand for U.S. consumer-oriented food and beverage products has been particularly strong in 2020 with imports through August up 13 percent (compared to the same time



the previous year) at \$337 million USD. Best prospective U.S. products for the Malaysian HRI market include dairy, fresh fruit, processed fruit, seafood, pork, and beef.

Food Processing Magazine

A Look at the FDA's Proposed Food Traceability Rule – [link](#)

The FDA's recently proposed Food Traceability Rule may start with a list of problematic food products, but the bigger goal is better traceability throughout the food supply. The agency on Sept. 21 announced “Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods,” a proposal to establish additional traceability recordkeeping requirements for certain foods, including leafy greens, fresh cut fruits and vegetables, some types of fish, shell eggs and nut butters.

Specialty Food Magazine

California Beef Council Introduces Local Beef Directory – [link](#)

The California Beef Council has launched the California Local Beef Directory, a resource for those interested in purchasing beef directly from California’s ranchers. In addition to producer details, the directory also provides information about how beef is raised, guidance on different beef cuts, recipe inspiration, and background on how much product to expect when purchasing.

Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.

Country reports were started in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

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